

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 4 MAY 50 50X1

SUBJECT USIA Firms Working on Soviet Order  
for Corrugated Steel Sheds

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1. Because of USIA's inability to procure a sufficient supply of structural steel parts and galvanized metal sheets, USIA firms have not been able to complete the Soviet order for 400 corrugated steel sheds. Recently, Tikhomirov, Director General of USIA, ordered Dmitri Sidorov, Soviet Director of USIA's Construction and Building Materials Administration, to expedite completion of these sheds, regardless of the financial costs involved. As a result of Tikhomirov's directive, USIA firms administered by the Construction and Building Materials Administration are now working on an accelerated production schedule to prepare 200 sheds for delivery to Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the very near future.

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2. On 21 March 1950, 30 railroad carloads of steel and corrugated metal sheets were distributed to USIA firms for these sheds. This shipment was imported from West German steel mills by Dr. Alfred Back Kommerz GmbH, Vienna III, Radetzkystrasse 25. It is said that this Vienna export-import firm is completely staffed by members of the Austrian Communist Party.

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